

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – August 23, 2021 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall
Minutes

1. Call to order.

Chairman Yuchniuk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Traci Callaghan, Gary Murphy, Thomas Pedersen, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Robert Yuchniuk. Commissioner Mickey Gillette was absent. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda. *None*

5. Communications:

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Chairman Yuchniuk confirmed all Commissioners received copies of the monthly reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the July 26, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes, as written. Discussion: None . Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public (Agenda items—three-minute limit).

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant Radford read into the record the PD monthly statistics report ending July 31, 2021, as follows: There were 1268 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (82), arrests (28), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (183), PD (236), Walk-in (51), and By Officer (691).

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported the FD monthly overall statistics for July 31, 2021, as having 274 calls and 194 of them were EMS calls. He spoke of the tropical storm Henri that did not track as anticipated stating stations were doubled up with career staff and volunteers in attendance; Route 85 was closed for one (1) hour and then reopened; and at 4:30 p.m. yesterday 192 were without power and the outage was resolved as of his 5:30 p.m. call to

Eversource today. Fire Marshal Barnes also reported on new hire, Firefighter Alex Blaise, who grew up in Montville but comes from Salem and is a member of Chesterfield Fire Company and has operated and driven every piece of fire apparatus and equipment having formerly worked for Shipman’s and Bulldog. He also thanked Commissioners Murphy, Pedersen, and Gillette for volunteering their time on the interview committee. Fire Marshal Barnes also reported Dispatcher Ed Bragdon is retiring effective November 6 that will then create two (2) open dispatch positions and the application period for the position closed Friday. He will contact the Commission about interviews. He also reported on an email he received from Chairman and East Lyme/Waterford ACO Yuchniuk about the American Red Cross regional shelter opened for the storm, an emergency shelter that operated for 23 hours. During the entirety of the regional shelter hours of operation, Officers Yuchniuk and Ryan and Montville ACO Tina Brown assisted at the New London AC Facility and the Town of Montville is deserving of recognition for the aid she provided through feeding, cleaning, and care of the animals present along with Officers Yuchniuk and Ryan.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison (*Perkins*)

Commissioner Perkins reported no meeting of the Montville Firefighter Relief Committee was held this month but reported a quarterly eligibility review of members for stipends were submitted as follows: Montville 9, Mohegan 16, Chesterfield 10, and Oakdale 18. Mohegan Fire Company submitted a monthly report having responded to 164 calls. Mohegan Fire Company responded to 109 calls—31 fires, 127 EMS, and 6 mutual aid out of town—and continue to do monthly trainings—regular, junior probationary members, online for continuing education, drivers, and engineer’s night--throughout the month for a total of 64 volunteer hours. Mohegan Fire Company also celebrated its 75th Anniversary ceremony on August 7, with a Parade on August 15 and pictures of it are on social media. An Anniversary Ball was held on August 4. Oakdale Fire Company participated in the Parks & Recreation in the Annual Mud Run at Camp Oakdale with Youth Services and Parks & Recreation. The Oakdale ambulance crew will volunteer on the September 2nd Rotary Road Race.

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison (*Murphy*)

Commissioner Murphy stated the statistical reports for month ending July 31, 2021, were sent out to the Commission in the packet. The statistics are as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (July 2021)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	7	7
# of Animals Sold as Pets	2	2
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	3	3
Total Complaints Investigated	89	89
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	1

Total Infractions/Summons	0	0
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Town of Salem Animal Control Report (July 2021)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	0	0
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	10	10
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	0
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison (*Gillette*)

Chairman Yuchniuk said Commissioner Gillette was not present but the monthly report for July 2021 was submitted.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison (*Stewart*)

Commissioner Stewart reported on the Building Department fiscal year-end statistics for June 30, 2021, which he did not have last month, in addition to statistics for the month ending July 31, 2021.

Building Department Report

2020-2021 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	115	76	197	111	151	110	83	73	150	125	117	103
Open/Pending Permits (New System)	115	85	101	100	88	85	102	123	98	153	125	112
Open Permits (Old System)	3201	3176	3166	3150	3133	3066	3063	3060	2945	2942	2837	2912
Inspections	103	78	113	119	107	96	131	88	116	111	104	118
Plan Reviews	37	17	96	9	20	25	17	11	194	37	29	19
CO's	0	3	2	3	7	3	2	1	4	3	3	4
Violation Notices		2	2	3	0	2	0	1	2	0	3	
Unsafe Notices		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Blight Identified To Date	530*	534*	534	538	538	538	539	539	540	540	540	540
Blight Abated To Date	342	345	347*	349	349	351	354	356	358	356	356	356

*Corrected numbers.

2021-2022 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	110											
Pending Permits	124											
Inspections	118											
Plan Reviews	17											
CO's	5											
Violation Notices	2											
Unsafe Notices	0											
Blight Identified	557											
Blight Abated To Date	388											

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- *None*

11. Unfinished Business.

a. Fire Department Solutions.

Chairman Yuchniuk commented on remarks at last month's meeting regarding the frequency of meetings with the feeling they should be held more often. Mayor McDaniel reported it was agreed the meetings would be held in the month for the Firefighter Relief Fund meeting, a meeting to be held at least quarterly.

b. Discussion and action on the Animal Control Facility.

Chairman Yuchniuk inquired about action on this item. Town Councilor Bunnell said the issue should be left to the ACO and the Liaison, but Commissioner Murphy stated the Town Council must make the decision as to where the facility should be. Mayor McDaniel spoke of being given mixed messages and said when he gets clear direction, he will get funds in the budget process. Funds were put in the CIP stating something did happen. Commissioner Perkins commented she thought the proposed plan was a new AC facility in Montville and approved by the Commission. Commissioner Murphy said the cost for the project would scare people off and said options should be given to the public and then let them vote on it. Town Councilor Bunnell said funds were put into CIP and asked if the Commission wants to add more funds to it or restate its position. He also said the condition of the existing facility was a factor in prior discussion stating a new one would cost a lot and asked whether the Town would accept it. Mayor McDaniel clarified for Commissioner Callaghan the 5-year CIP and the need for the existing facility to be brought up to current code requirements. Commissioner Perkins agreed to send to Commissioner Callaghan copies of information acquired through the subcommittee on the topic. Commissioner Callaghan said she visits the AC Facility with kids and donates

items which she would encourage others to do and tour the facility. Commissioner Murphy said the Town Council should authorize an amount as the public would rather take care of animals. Commissioner Perkins added the Commission agreed to keep the AC Facility in Montville and wants something done but was hindered by the changing of the guard on the Town Council. Commissioner Callaghan asked if there were vacant Town buildings that could be used; Chairman Yuchniuk said that idea was considered, and prospective properties were looked at, but nothing worked. He added that State guidelines must be followed for the build, and they would increase costs. He also said Town Councilor Bunnell and the ACO toured the New London Facility and the cost for utilizing it by the Town. Town Councilor Bunnell reported the Norwich Facility was also visited and no costs were discussed although Norwich felt it could support its use by the Town. Commissioner Perkins said that assumption was made by the former Town Council to visit other towns. One of the main questions according to Town Councilor Bunnell was if New London would be able to support other towns and the response was “yes”, a means for doing due diligence and researching other options. Mayor McDaniel added there was never a true estimate, just a good faith amount, but not one without an engineering study, that originally was estimated at under \$1 million. Chairman Yuchniuk also said the State can close the doors of the Town AC because of its condition but is not something that is done. He urged visiting the facility that he described as sad. Commissioner Stewart suggested that the report of the findings of the subcommittee be sent to the Commission for review and further discussion. Chairman Yuchniuk asked Commissioner Murphy to speak with the ACO concerning her interests and guidance; Commissioner Murphy responded the ACO wants to stay in Town and said he had reached out to T. McNally since he was on the Town Council at the time and is awaiting feedback. Chairman Yuchniuk agreed to get the pricing information and send it via text to Commissioner Murphy.

- c. To consider an act on a Town of Montville Public Safety Commission Policies and Procedures, Section F.4, G.2 2.4, Attachment 1 & Attachment 3, 6.6.2, Adopted June 13, 2011. – *(Murphy)*

Commissioner Murphy stated he was not completely finished with his review of the item stating he is working with a couple of people on the Town Council. He said it is more work to get minor changes but reported he will continue for another month and if there were no resolution, he would ask to have the item removed from the Agenda.

12. New Business. -- *None*

13. Remarks from the Public (non-agenda items—three-minute limit).

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel congratulated Mohegan Firehouse on its 75th Anniversary, a nice set of events with a moving ceremony. He reported on having lost two (2) very, valuable dispatchers and said an interview committee needed to be formed. He also reported Building Inspector Vern Vesey and Town Planner Marcia Vlaun had submitted their retirement papers stating it

was a time for them to enjoy themselves. Mayor McDaniel also reported the new part-time blight officer, Melissa Richards is doing well and said lawyers were needed to clean up the Palmer property. He also noted property searches must be done according to statutes and said Town notices being sent were in violation. Also, final interviews for canine handlers were completed and Officer Vessino came out on top of the three (3) candidates before the committee of Commissioner Gillette, Resident Trooper Gelinias, and Mayor McDaniel. He also commented on the readiness efforts of Town officials for the Storm Henri. As well, he said he would look for the pricing information for the proposed Town Animal Control structure as reported.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell recognized the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, and Mayor McDaniel for the Town's preparation and presence for the tropical storm. He also clarified the meeting minutes of June 28, Section 11.a concerning the history of the noise ordinance since deleted from the agenda. He explained he used the State statute defining the term "reasonable", not the ordinance stating the issue of noise ordinance is not a bad one but needs to be defined. He also congratulated Firefighter Eric Blaise and thanked Dispatchers Jon Leonard and Ed Bragdon, Building Inspector Vern Vesey, and Town Planner Marcia Vlaun on their pending or active retirement. Town Councilor Bunnell also thanked the newly appointed Commissioners Callaghan and Pedersen stating the Commission is a recommending body where important issues can be lobbied and encouraged them to reach out to Town departments. He also congratulated part-time Blight Officer Richards.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins welcomed Firefighter Blaise on his appointment. Commissioner Murphy remarked storm preparation is a daunting task and gave respect to Town Fire Marshals past and present, appreciation to volunteer firefighters, and said, "the Town has done it right for a long time." He also congratulated Mohegan Firehouse on its 75th anniversary, wished retiring Dispatcher Bragdon well, and commented on the good job done by the rebuilding of the Oxoboxo Dam. Commissioner Pederson welcomed Firefighter Blaise on his appointment and commented on the great candidates for the position. Commissioner Callaghan also congratulated Firefighter Blaise on his appointment. Commissioner Stewart congratulated Mohegan Firehouse on its anniversary stating Chesterfield Firehouse would have its 75th anniversary next year. He also hoped the Department would continue to increase its rank, congratulated Alex Blaise, and commented on the number of back-to-back ambulance calls. Chairman Yuchniuk remarked discussion of the Animal Shelter was initially discussed by the Commission on June 28, 2018.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**